

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1030

By Berke

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Charlesetta Woodard-Thompson upon her selection as a 2008 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2008, the American Lung Association of Tennessee, in conjunction with Belk, will present the 23rd Annual Women of Distinction Awards, designating Charlesetta Woodard-Thompson as a 2008 Woman of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, a long-standing Chattanooga tradition, the Woman of Distinction Awards are granted to women who have distinguished themselves through their professional career accomplishments and their dedication to the community through their numerous and valuable civic and philanthropic endeavors; the honorees are selected from community nominations; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful and pioneering businesswoman, Ms. Woodard-Thompson has worked assiduously and with uncommon devotion and zeal to improve the quality of life of the fine citizens of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, receiving her undergraduate degree from Spelman College and her graduate degree from Cornell University, Charlesetta Woodard-Thompson is the first female to hold the position of Executive Vice-President and Chief Operations Officer at Erlanger Health System; she also rendered astute service as Erlanger's interim Chief Executive Officer in 2003-2004, making her the first female CEO in the company's history, and was previously Senior Vice-President and Chief Human Resources Officer; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woodard-Thompson has additionally paved the way for both females and African-Americans as the first African-American manager in labor relations for the

Tennessee Valley Authority and was the first female or African-American to become personnel manager for the corporate offices; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of the greater Chattanooga community, Charlesetta Woodard-Thompson is a founding member of 100 Black Women of Chattanooga, Inc. and served with acumen and alacrity as Chairman of the Board of the Southeast Tennessee/North Georgia chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society; and

WHEREAS, despite her busy schedule, Ms. Woodard-Thompson still finds time donate her incredible talents to such worthy causes as the Chattanooga Urban League and the Chattanooga Community Foundation, both of which she currently serves as a board member; Governor Phil Bredesen recognized her exceptional abilities and appointed her to the Tennessee Civil Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, her many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Charlesetta Woodard-Thompson is most grateful to share both love and support with her daughter; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woodard-Thompson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; she takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned this State the nickname of "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Charlesetta Woodard-Thompson, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Charlesetta Woodard-Thompson on being named as a 2008 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association of Tennessee, recognizing her outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit and extending to her our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.